

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1637

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, FR, PLO, SG, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR

REF A STATE 050665, B DAKAR 1601, C STATE 051896

1. SUMMARY: SENEGALESE SEE AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY
DOMONSTRATED AT CAIRO SUMMIT AS ENCOURAGING SIGN FOR
PROGRESS ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN ISSUES,
BUT ARE UNFAVORABLY CONTRASTING POSITIVE SUMMIT RESLUTS
WITH RECENT US STATEMENTS ON ISRAEL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.
TO DATE, PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS HAD PRIVATE MEETINGS
IN CAIRO WITH YASSIR ARAFAT AND LEADERS OF SEVEN
AFRICAN AND ARAB NATIONS. I AM SEEKING APPOINTMENT
WITH SENGHOR AFTER HIS RETURN TO DELIVER SECRETARY'S LETTER
AND WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS US INTEREST IN CONTINUING
DIALOGUE WITH IM ON MIDDLE EAST. WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR ANY FURTHER MESSAGE
FOR SENGHOR WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE.
END SUMMARY.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL SENEGALESE PRESS IS ELATED OVER
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REPORTED ARAB LARGESSE AT CAIRO SUMMIT, AND IS CONTRASTING
THAT SUCCESS WITH WHAT ARE PERCEIVED AS DISAPPOINTING
US ACTIONS ON AFRO-ARAB ISSUES. UNDER HEADING "CARTER
SUPPORTS RABIN," MARCH 9 LE SOLEIL EXPRESSES SURPRISE
OVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPORTED ENDORSEMENT OF
"DEFENSIBLE FRONTIERS" FOR ISRAEL AND CONCLUDES US WILL
ALSO FURNISH ISRAEL MEANS TO MAINTAIN "USURPED FRONTIERS."

STATEMENT ALSO QUOTES UN ABMASSADOR YOUNG AS PREDICTING "IT IS PROBABLE THAT BLACK MAJORITY WILL COME TO POWER IN RHODESIA ONLY AFTER ABOUT TEN YEARS" (SIC), AND CHIDES THAT "PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ... SOUTHERN AFRICA IS NOT FOR TOMORROW."

ACCORDING TO WRITER, THOSE IN AFRO-ARAB WORLD WHO HAD "EXTOLLED" ADVENT OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION MUST NOW "CHANGE THEIR TUNE, AT LEAST ON THE CHANCES FOR RESOLVING IPSO FACTO THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA." AGAINST THIS "SCORN" BY GREAT POWERS, LE SOLEIL SEES "GIANT STEP" TOWARD AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY AT CAIRO AS "HISTORICAL CHALLENGE" WHICH "NEITHER CARTER, RABIN, VORSTER NOR IAN SMITH CAN QUESTION."

3. LOCAL PRESS HAS PLAYED UP REPORTED TRIBUTES TO SENGHOR BY SADAT AND OAU SECRETARY GENERAL MBOUMOUA FOR SENEGALESE PRESIDENT'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY, AND HAS PUBLICIZED SENGHOR'S PRIVATE MEETINGS IN CAIRO WITH (SO FAR) YASSIR ARAFAT, PRESIDENTS OF SYRIA, SUDAN, CAMEROON AND NIGERIA, VICE-PRESIDENT OF IRAG, MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AND SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER, AS WELL AS PRESS CONFERENCE AND TV INTERVIEW.

4. I HOPE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR FOLLOWING LATTER'S EXPECTED RETURN MARCH 10 FROM SUMMIT, AND PROPOSE TO DELIVER SECRETARY'S MESSAGE AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER, GIVEN LINKAGES DESCRIBED ABOVE WHICH ARE BEING DRAWN LOCALLY, I AM APPREHENSIVE THAT OUR NECESSARILY NEGATIVE REPLY TO SENGHOR COULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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DAMAGING IMPACT THAN WE INTENDED. ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD PLAN IN MEETING WITH SENGHOR TO UNDERSCORE US DESIRE EXPRESSED IN SECRETARY'S LETTER FOR CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH HIM, AND TO EXPRESS PARTICULAR US INTEREST IN RECEIVING SENGHOR'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST IN WAKE OF HIS CAIRO DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WHICH DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH RAISED. COULD ALSO DELIEVER ANY FURTHER MESSAGE SETTING FORTH US POSITIONS OR REITERATING SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN HEARING SENGHOR'S VIEWS WHICH DEPARTMENT MIGHT DEEM APPROPRIATE IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED ABOVE. PLEASE PREPLY BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE. AGGREY

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